

## Eastern Region Edition

From Flaming Gorge to Navajo  
Mountain

July 2001

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State of Utah  
Department of Workforce  
Services  
Robert C. Gross  
Executive Director

Eastern Region  
Judy Chambley, Regional Director  
1680 West Highway 40, Suite 203B  
Vernal, Utah 84078  
(435) 789-7597  
(435) 789-7525 Fax

# EMPLOYER *Update*



## Uintah Basin Telephone Reports Stunning Growth

**O**n April 6th the Uintah Basin Telephone Association (UBTA), a local telephone service provider, went from 3,500 telephone customers to over 20,000. Last year, when US West announced it was leaving the Uintah Basin, UBTA showed interest in being the local telephone service provider for the communities of Roosevelt and Vernal.

After months of negotiation with US West, then completing the regulatory approval process, UBTA was given the final go ahead for the acquisition of the telephone accounts in February 2001.

The company now has 120 employees, a 50% increase over last year. UBTA also is moving ahead with construction

of a new facility in downtown Roosevelt that will accommodate the larger workload and additional workers. The building, scheduled for completion in August, has 65 offices, plus room for service vehicles and storage. (See picture below.)

**"The testing  
performed by DWS  
worked extremely  
well for us."**

*Leon Mansfield, UBTA Human  
Resources Manager*

UBTA utilized the Roosevelt Office of the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) to test selected applicants for skills in Microsoft Windows and Excel. "The applicant testing performed by DWS worked extremely

well for us," said Leon Mansfield, UBTA Human Resources Manager. "We have found a correlation between those who did well on the test and those who worked well on the job."

"We were pleased to assist UBTA with the testing, and would do it for any of our local employers," said Jeri Uresk, Business Consultant from the DWS Roosevelt Office. "It has been great to see UBTA hire so many people. They offer good jobs with benefits and that has helped our economy."





# OLYMPIC Update

Have you thought about how the Olympics might impact your business? Whether your business is in Salt Lake or Park City, or you conduct business transactions within these areas, chances are you may be impacted.

Impacts will mostly be in the downtown Salt Lake City area and Park City. Heber City will not be impacted other than a probable exponential increase in traffic.

For those employers that conduct business with the Department of Workforce Services' (DWS) Downtown Employment Center at Expo Mart, be aware that this building may be in the center of some Olympic activities. It is only a few blocks from the medals' presentation ceremonies, and directly across from the Salt Palace. Access to the center will likely be restricted and difficult since the Salt Lake Olympic Committee (SLOC) anticipates upwards of 60,000 people per night in the vicinity of the Medals Plaza.

On 200 West in Salt Lake City there will be tents and pavilions that will encroach on the street. Traffic will be funneled down to two lanes and likely quite dense. Along 200 South there will be a fence buffer (for security purposes) between 200 West and West Temple streets. This fence will project into the street. There will be traffic control policemen directing traffic.

The Salt Palace will be media headquarters, for approximately 10,000 accredited media. These people will be coming and going during peak commuter times.

An official from SLOC suggests that you don't hit the 'snooze button' in the morning. Get rolling early, and get out of downtown by no later than 3:30 in the afternoon. In the words of the official, "You don't want to be downtown after 4:00 pm unless you plan to be part of the activities."

Beginning in June DWS will be assisting SLOC in recruiting and interviewing applicants for "games time employment." The interviews will be initially held at the Salt Lake City, Ogden and Provo Employment Centers.

## labor law posters...

The following information was assembled to help employers be aware of required labor law posters. These government posters may be obtained free of charge from agencies listed below. Please note that this list should not be relied upon as an official listing of mandatory issuances.

• **Unemployment Insurance Notice to Workers** - Utah Employment Security Act (unemployment insurance benefit rights, claim, etc.) Required for all employers subject to the act.

*Available at the Utah Department of Workforce Services  
140 E. 300 S. • Salt Lake City, UT 84111 • (801) 526-9400 • [www.dws.state.ut.us](http://www.dws.state.ut.us)*

• **Your Rights Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)** - minimum wage and weekly overtime requirements. Required for all employers engaged in interstate commerce.

• **Employee Polygraph Protection Act** - prohibitions, exemptions, and examinee rights. Required for all employers subject to FLSA.

• **Family and Medical Leave Act** - provides up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to eligible employees for specific family and medical reasons. Required for all employers with 50 or more employees working within 75 miles.

• **Notice to Employees** - Walsh-Healy Public Contracts Act (minimum wage, overtime and fringe benefits requirements.) Required for all employer and subcontractors engaged in the performance of federal contracts.

*These four posters are available at the Wage-Hour Division  
US Department of Labor • 10 W. Broadway • Suite 307  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101 • (801) 524-5706 • [www.dol.gov/dol/esa/](http://www.dol.gov/dol/esa/)*

• **Job Safety and Health Protection** - Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (safety and health in the workplace). Required for all employers.

• **Utah OSHA Statistics** - Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (job-related injuries and illnesses which occurred during the past year; must remain posted between February 1 and March 1 of the following year. Required for all employers with 10 or more employees.

• **Worker's Compensation Act Notice** - statement that employer is insured in event of industrial injury or illness and that a fraudulent claim is a crime. Required for all employers. Also available through employer's insurer.

*These three posters are available at the Utah Labor Commission  
OSHA Division • 160 E. 300 S., 3rd Floor • Salt Lake City, UT 84111  
(801) 530-6901 • (801) 530-6800 (Worker's Comp.)*

• **Equal Employment Opportunity is the Law** - Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (prohibits discrimination for protected classes). Required for all employer with 15 or more employees and federal contractors.

*Available at the EEO Commission  
3300 N. Central Ave., Ste. 690 • Phoenix, AZ 85012-9688 • (602) 640-5000*



# Information Gold Mine

## Conveniently Available

Where can you get information such as economic trends in your area, largest employers, population, the unemployment rate, plus more, quickly and easily? At the Economic Information portion of our website: <http://wi.dws.state.ut.us/>.

This information and much more is contained in our labor market information publications targeted for employers and are available in their entirety on our website (click on Publications). You can read, download or print out all or parts of them as you like. Under the Employers button you'll find quick reference tools, such as county fact sheets, sub-state wage tables and a list of Utah firms by company, industry and area (FirmFind). You can instantly link to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the U.S. Census site, and others.

### Utah Occupational Wages

Provides wage data for nearly 300 occupations.

### County Newsletters

A report of the area's economic indicators by county. Includes data on non-farm jobs, unemployment, labor force, gross taxable sales, car sales, tourist room sales, building permits, and economic events.

### Utah Employers, Employment & Wages by Size

A report of employment, wages, and numbers of employers by firm size. Provides data for detailed industrial sectors and counties. Also available on CD.

### Key Labor Market Information

Historical county-level labor force, nonfarm-job wage, personal income, population and per capita income data.

### Annual Report of Labor Market Information, 1999

Primarily contains aggregated employment and wage data by area and industry. Compiled data from virtually all of Utah's nonfarm employers (over 57,000). Some labor force and unemployment data are included. The information is displayed in over 40 tables and charts.

### Utah Equal Employment Opportunity Info., 1997 Estimates

Compilation of the Utah population and labor force by ethnic group, race and gender 1997 data. Used to design affirmative action and EEO plans.

### County Demographic & Economic Profiles

Currently available for the following counties:

Cache (7/97); Davis (9/96); Duchesne (4/97); Iron (9/97); Salt Lake (7/97); Sanpete (8/98); Sevier (7/98); Tooele (2/99); Washington (6/98); and Weber (1/97).

You can also order hard copies by calling (801) 526-9786.

### DWS UI Claims Center Answers One-Millionth Call

The Unemployment Insurance Claims Center (UICC) strives to provide exceptional customer service to Utah citizens. Since its creation in 1997, UICC has achieved international recognition for innovation, for processing over 260,000 UI claims, for reducing the time to file a claim by over 66%, and for answering over 850,000 inquiries. Now the UICC has added another milestone - its one-millionth call. For more information call (801) 526-4400 or 1-888-848-0688.

## Thanks for Participating in OJT Program

DWS would like to thank two companies, the R. Jorgensen Company of Salt Lake City, and Carpenter Seed of Provo, for participating in the On-the-Job (OJT) Program. The OJT Program is a unique way for employers to obtain the skills desired in an employee and be reimbursed up to 50% of his/her wages for providing the training.

The R. Jorgensen Company utilized this program to train Mike Georgi in sales, repair and maintenance of heavy machinery. When the OJT contract ended Mike was retained as a permanent employee. Training was completed in six phases to ensure the desired outcomes.

Owner Roger Jorgensen has an excellent relationship with his employees, including the trainee Mike. Roger was patient in the training, commenting that he thought "Mike was his own worst critic." Mike's response was, "I wanted to learn as much as I could as quickly as I could...". The R. Jorgensen Company is to be commended for seeing potential in people and providing patient and caring training.

DWS would also like to recognize Carpenter Seed of Provo. Owners Ryan Taylor and his family felt that new immigrant Sergey Lazykov from Russia deserved a break in his new country.

They hired and trained Sergey in small engine repair, through the WIA Adult OJT Program. Though he had previous limited experience in the field, Sergey needed to familiarize himself with American small engines and learn specific methods. Carpenter Seed hired Sergey in the winter during their slow season which allowed for personal tutoring. Sergey spoke little English when he was hired; however, English classes and interaction with others increased his language abilities.

For more information on OJT contracts, contact your local Business Services Consultant listed on the back of this newsletter.

Utah Department of Workforce Services  
Executive Director's Office  
P.O. Box 143100  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-3100

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## Eastern Region *Oil Drilling Up*

Oil and gas activity in Eastern Region is picking up, as the unemployment rates in the chart at the right show. With the upturn in oil and gas prices last year, more drilling rigs are exploring for crude oil and natural gas.

Each operating rig provides 20-25 direct jobs as crews made up of five employees operate around the clock. Wages for a floor-hand, the entry level position on a rig, are \$13-15 per hour. Service or "work-over" rigs, which are smaller portable rigs that do service and maintenance on producing wells, are also staying busy.

Carbon and Emery Counties have experienced some growth from methane gas drilling, but the unemployment rates still indicate the two

counties are suffering from mine closures of the past two years.

	Mar '00	Mar '01
<b>Duchesne</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
<b>Uintah</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
<b>Carbon</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>
<b>Emery</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>
<b>Salt Lake-Ogden</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>



***Contact us if we can  
be of assistance:***

<b>Blanding</b>	<b>678-1400</b>
<b>Castle Dale</b>	<b>381-4700</b>
<b>Moab</b>	<b>259-3700</b>
<b>Monticello</b>	<b>587-2016</b>
<b>Price</b>	<b>636-2300</b>
<b>Roosevelt</b>	<b>722-6500</b>
<b>Vernal</b>	<b>781-4100</b>